

MITCHELL C. HESCOX: Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I am Mitchell Hescocox, I am president and CEO of Evangelical Environmental Network. I'm a native of Pennsylvania, currently reside here. EEN, or Evangelical Environmental Network, represents over 2 and a half million pro-life Christians around the country who take an action and support some clean energy, climate change and clean energy future. We also represent over 70,000 people here in this Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For us, dealing with energy and pollution is what we call a matter of life, the impacts it has on our children and our entire population. I'd like to state for the record that I agree with the first four speakers, and they could have had my comments written down, so I will just tell stories then. I'm probably one of the few people here that actually live in a coal community. I actually worked in the coal industry for 14 years and grew up in a little town called Lamburg (sp), Pennsylvania. Less than a 100 yards from my back yard were unreclaimed coal strip mines. They were state owned lands. Still to this day they have never been reclaimed. Just a couple miles on top of a place in Cambria County, which was called Jackson Ridge, my dad's favorite hunting ground. It was mined back in the '60s as well and to this day has never been reclaimed. It spews out toxic mine waste into the forest, destroying trees, wildlife and pollution that affects our children right now. So in support of the comments and what I would like to make are two-fold. One is was mentioned, we can no longer afford or allow self-bonding by any coal company. The amount of bankruptcies are there, are witnessed around the country. It is that lack of bonding and the externalities that affect, has to be a way to accumulate those external costs. For years both utility industry and the coal companies themselves have privatized the profits of our coal industry and externalized the cost on our children's lungs, hearts and brains. Not to mention the effects of climate disruption and other things. So I would urge you and as the people of faith from all around this nation and the Commonwealth, let us move towards a clean, energy economy, retrain our workers, but most importantly for your benefit, let us make sure that we no longer allow mines not to be reclaimed and our waters poisoned. Thank you very much.